1 – 41 (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) An electronic interface for collecting information for a data picture, the interface comprising:

a data palette providing a set of data parameters available for selection, said set of data parameters including at least some in text form corresponding to predefined statements concerning an action and/or a transaction; and

a data canvas, separate from said data palette, on which a selected set of one or more of said set of data parameters can be displayed and arranged arbitrarily by a user to generate the data picture; and

wherein the data picture can be based at least in part on a graphical arrangement configured by the user within the data canvas, including one or more physical positions selected by the user within the data canvas for placing one or more corresponding predefined statements from said selected set, and/or a relative relationship between said one or more physical positions selected by the user of a selected group of said predefined statements collected from the user and pertaining to the user's perceptions concerning said action and/or said transaction.

43. (Currently amended) The interface of claim 42, wherein said selected set of data parameters are can be selected and physically moved by such user to a gradient on said data canvas by physically manipulating an electronic pointing device.

44. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 42, wherein the data picture is generated using a single data capture screen including said data palette and said data canvas.

45. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 42, wherein the data picture is translatable into one or more electronic records including numeric data values, but said data picture is generated without numeric data input by the user.

46. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 45, wherein said numeric data values are based on the physical location of said selected set of data parameters as placed by the user on said data canvas.

47. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 42, wherein said selected set of data parameters, including individual ones of said selected group of predefined statements can be ranked in relative importance by the user based on their location on said data canvas.

48. (Original) The interface of claim 47, further wherein said data canvas conveys visible feedback information when the user is arranging said selected set of data parameters.

49. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 42, wherein said set of data parameters include factors associated with lessons learned by a user concerning such action and/or transaction.

50. (Original) The interface of claim 42, wherein said interface also provides a visual comparison between data in said data picture and other data pictures.

51. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 42, wherein said interface also provides visual feedback to such operator based on an evaluation of said data in the data picture.

52. (Previously presented) The interface of claim 42, wherein said set of parameters can be customized by the user.

53 – 90 (Canceled)

91.   (Currently amended) A method of generating a data picture using a computer program, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

provrding a data palette, said palette including a set of data parameters available for selection by a user of the program, such that said set of data parameters includes at least some in text form corresponding to predefined statements concerning an action and/or a transaction; and

providing a data canvas, separate from said data palette, on which selected data parameters can be displayed and arranged arbitrarily by said user to generate the data picture; and

wherein the data picture can be based <u>at least in part</u> on a graphical arrangement of a selected group of said predefined statements collected from said user and pertaining to the user's mental impressions concerning said action and/or said transaction, <u>said graphical arrangement being configured by the user within the data canvas to have a value which is based on physical positions selected by the user within the data canvas for said predefined statements and/or a relative spatial relationship between said predefined statements within the data canvas concerning</u>.

92.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, wherein all information collected from said user is captured using a single data picture.

93.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, wherein all information for the data picture is captured during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

94.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, wherein the data picture is stored as part of a transaction record which includes numeric data values, but the data picture is generated without numeric data input by the user.

95.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, wherein said numeric data values are based on the physical location of said selected data parameters as placed by the user on said data canvas.

96.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, further including a step of permitting said user to rank said selected data parameters, including said selected group of said predefined statements, on said data canvas.

97.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, wherein said selected data parameters can be ranked according to their physical arrangement on said data canvas.

98.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 91, further including a step of providing visual feedback based on an evaluation of the data picture to present the user with a visual output depicting an expected outcome of said action and/or said transaction based on the data picture.

99.   (Currently Amended) A method of permitting a user to input a data picture expressing mental impressions concerning an action and/or transaction, the method comprising the steps of:

      providing a set of a plurality of individual assertions, said assertions being associated with such mental impressions; and

      displaying said set of assertions to the user in a first portion of a visible electronic interface; and

      permitting the user to select and move personalized individual assertions taken from said set of assertions to a second, separate portion of said visible interface, which second separate portion acts as a data canvas for displaying such personalized individual assertions; and

      wherein said personalized individual assertions can be arranged by the user to create the data picture.

100.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein all information collected from said user for the action and/or transaction is captured using a single data picture.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein all information is captured for the action and/or transaction during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein numeric data values are assigned to said personalized individual assertions based on the physical location of said personalized individual assertions as placed by the user on said data canvas.

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, further including a step of permitting said user to rank said personalized individual assertions on said data canvas.

104. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein said personalized individual assertions can be ranked according to their physical arrangement on said data canvas.

105. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, further including a step of providing visual feedback based on an evaluation of the data picture to present the user with a visual output depicting an expected outcome of said action and/or said transaction based on the data picture.

106. (Currently amended) A method of capturing data concerning an actual or proposed transaction from a user of a computing system, said system including at least a keyboard and pointing device for inputting data, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a set of a plurality of individual assertions, said assertions being associated with mental impressions of the user relating to the transaction; and

displaying said set of assertions to the user in a first portion of a visible electronic interface; and

permitting the user to select and move selected assertions taken from said set of assertions to a second, separate portion of said visible interface, which second separate portion acts to display such selected assertions along a visible gradient; and

permitting the user to arrange said selected assertions in a ranking order relative to each other along said visible gradient to create a data picture;

wherein the data is collected from said user substantially without input from the keyboard, and said data picture is calculated based only on those selected assertions from the user.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 106 further wherein all information collected from said user for the actual and/or proposed transaction is captured using said set of assertions.

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 106 further wherein all of the user's information for the actual and/or proposed transaction is captured during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

109. (Previously presented) The method of claim 106, wherein numeric data values are assigned to said selected assertions based on their physical location as placed by the user on said data canvas.

110. (Previously presented) The method of claim 106, further including a step of providing a visual comparison between the data picture and data collected from said user during a prior data capture session.

111. (Currently amended) A method of generating program data from user input data concerning an actual or proposed action and/or transaction, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing the user with a palette of individual assertions associated with the user's perceptions of such action and/or transaction <u>in a first portion of a visible interface</u>; and

permitting the user to select and move selected assertions taken from said set of assertions to a second, separate portion of said visible interface, which second separate portion acts to visibly display such selected assertions; and

permitting the user to arrange said selected assertions in a ranking order relative to each other so as to constitute the user input data;

converting the user input data into program data, by assigning numerical values to such program data corresponding to said arrangement of said selected assertions.

112. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein said numeric data values are based on the physical location of said assertions as placed by the user on said second separate portion of said interface.

113. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111, further including a step of providing a gradient visible to the user for assisting in the ranking of said selected assertions.

114. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111, further including a step of providing visible feedback information when the user arranges said selected assertions.

115. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111, wherein said palette of individual assertions include statements associated with lessons learned by a user concerning such action and/or transaction.

116. (Previously presented) The method of claim 115, further including a step of retrieving and modifying any of said lessons associated with the user input data at a later time.

117. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111 wherein said palette of individual assertions can be customized at least in part by the user.

118. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111, further including a step of providing a visual comparison between the user input data and program data collected from said user during a prior session.

119. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111, further including a step of providing visual feedback based on an evaluation of the user input data to present the user with a visual output depicting an expected outcome of said action and/or said transaction based on the user input data.

120. (Previously presented) The method of claim 111 further wherein all of the user's information concerning an actual or proposed transaction is captured during a data collection session using a single data collection screen.

121.   (Currently Amended) A method of capturing input data from a user within an electronic interface comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    (a) providing a menu within the interface for presenting a set of data parameters to the user; and

    (b) providing a canvas within the interface for creating a data record based on said set of data parameters; and

    (c) moving a selected data parameter from set of data parameters to said canvas; and

    (d) arranging said selected data parameter on said canvas so as to indicate a corresponding weighting factor to be associated with said selected data parameter; and

    (e) repeating steps (c) and (d) to capture the input data;
        wherein said data record is generated <u>at least in part</u> based on any selected data parameters and their associated weighting factors.

122.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 121, wherein said data record is used as a query to locate additional information for the user.

123.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 121, wherein said data record is compared against other data records and a visual analysis is presented to the user.

124.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 121, wherein said weighting factor is based on a physical location within the interface provided by the user.

125.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 124, wherein both a horizontal and vertical location are used to determine said weighting factor.

126. (Currently Amended) A method of providing feedback to a user during a data input session, ~~the method~~ comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    (a) collecting input data from the user using a data interface, said input data consisting of: i) one or more selected data parameters; ii) weighting information identifying a corresponding weighting factor to be given to each of said one or more selected data parameters; and

    (b) providing feedback information dynamically to the user while the user is providing said input data, said feedback information being based <u>at least in part</u> on said input data such that the user can monitor the effect of changing said one or more selected data parameters and/or their associated weighting factors.

127. (Previously presented) The method of claim 126, wherein said feedback information includes: (a) a set of data records correlating with said input data; (b) a list of proposed options based on said input data; (c) changes in an appearance of said data interface; and/or (d) a prediction of expected financial return based on input data; (e) a financial performance associated with transactions using said input data.

128. (Previously presented) The method of claim 126, wherein said data input session is conducted using a Java ™ applet operating within an Internet browser.

129. (Previously presented) The method of claim 126, wherein said data parameters correspond to reasons, motivations or perceptions concerning a transaction and/or action by the user.

130. (Previously presented) The method of claim 126, wherein said weighting factor is based on a relative placement of said selected data parameter within the interface.

131. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating data records associated with an action and/or transaction, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    (a) storing one or more data records, each of said data records including:

        i)   a set of data parameters identified by a user as pertaining to the action and/or transaction;

        ii)   a weighting factor to be given to each data parameter in said set of data parameters;

    (b) processing a query by the user, said query requesting an evaluation of a frequency of usage for a data parameter, and/or an evaluation of an rating given to a weighting factor associated with said data parameter, across said data records or a subset thereof; and

    (c) providing feedback to the user in response to said query.

132. (Previously presented) The method of claim 131, wherein said feedback includes a chart and/or graph.

133. (Previously presented) The method of claim 132, wherein said feedback includes a proposed model set of data records and weighting factors.

134. (Previously presented) The method of claim 131, wherein said feedback includes a prediction associated with using said one or more of data records.

135. (Previously presented) The method of claim 131, wherein said feedback includes a financial performance associated with using said one or more data records.

136. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a data record based on input data from a user provided within an interface, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    (a) generating a first data picture at a first time within the interface, said first data picture including a first set of data parameters and associated weighting factors for each data parameter in said first set of data parameters; and

        wherein said first data picture is created before the user performs an action and/or transaction associated with said first set of data parameters;

    (b) generating a second data picture at a second time within the interface, said second data picture including a second set of data parameters and associated weighting factors for each data parameter in said second set of data parameters; and

        wherein said second data picture is created after the user performs said action and/or said transaction;

    (c) modifying said second data picture at a third time within the interface using said second set of data parameters; and

        wherein both said first data picture and said second picture are used to create said data record.

137. (Previously presented) The method of claim 136, wherein said first data picture is not alterable after it is created.

138. (Previously presented) The method of claim 136, wherein said action and/or transaction pertains to trading a security, and said first data picture is associated with a purchase of said security, and said second data picture is associated with a sale of said security.

139. (Previously presented) The method of claim 138, further including a step (d): providing feedback to the user to indicate a financial performance associated with said trading of said security.

140. (Previously presented) The method of claim 138, wherein said first set of data parameters pertain to a motivation and/or reason of the user engaging in said action and/or transaction, and said second set of data parameters pertain to a lesson learned by the user from engaging in said action and/or transaction.

141. (Previously presented) A data picture record derived from data input in the form of a graphical arrangement by a user, the data picture record comprising:

an identifier indicating a particular action and/or transaction identified by the user as related to the data input;

an identity of a data parameter selected by the user to express the data input and used in the graphical arrangement for the particular action and/or transaction; and

a weighting factor associated with said data parameter, said weighting factor being derived from a relative placement of said data parameter within the graphical arrangement.

142. (Previously presented) The data picture of claim 141, wherein a collection of data picture records are grouped for said action and/or transaction.

143. (Previously presented) The data picture of claim 142, wherein said collection data picture records include data picture records created before said action and/or transaction, and data picture records created after said action and/or transaction.

144. (Previously presented) The data picture of claim 141, wherein said weighting factor is based on a physical coordinate location within a data canvas.

145. (Previously presented) The data picture of claim 144, wherein both a horizontal position and vertical position are considered in determining said weighting factor.